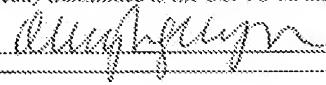


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: January 23, 2007

Signature: 

(Quyen Nguyen)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/798,465

Confirmation No.: 6106

Filing Date: March 11, 2004

Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.

Title: SURGICAL FASTENER

Examiner: G. Dawson

Group Art Unit: 3731

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated July 24, 2006 for which a response was due on October 24, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to January 24, 2007. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.